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MILTON MESSINA

## Santo Domingo Envoy Requests Full Autonomy

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY  
Latin America Writer of The Star

The new ambassador of the Dominican Republic, in his first appearance at the Council of the Organization of American States, played a starring role in a charade for home consumption in Santo Domingo.

Ambassador Milton Messina, a suave, well educated economist and banking expert, asked the OAS to turn over control of the tenure of the Inter-American Peace Force to President Hector Garcia-Godoy of the provisional government of the Dominican Republic.

The OAS council members decided they would have to consult their governments and scheduled a meeting Monday.

Observers of the Dominican crisis noted that, although Garcia-Godoy is virtually forced by domestic considerations to ask for control over the length of time the peace force will stay in his country, his provisional government probably would not survive a day if the force were withdrawn.

Experts believe the hatreds born of the Dominican revolution are so fierce that withdrawal of the largely-American peace force would lead to immediate resumption of the civil war.

Garcia-Godoy, technically commander in chief of the intact rebel and army forces, could not even prevail unaided on Gen Elias Wessin y Wessin to leave the country last week.

Nevertheless, for political reasons and in the name of sovereignty, he had to make the effort and Messina was the instrument.

Specifically, Messina asked the OAS at last night's closed session to revise Article 5 of the May 5 resolution setting up the Peace Force. The article specifies that control of the force remain with the OAS. Messina's request, made only a few hours after he presented his credentials to Secretary General Jose A. Mora, was that this article be revised to place control of the peace force with the provisional government.

The expectation is that the OAS next week will not give Garcia-Godoy a power he dare not use and will refer the Dominicans to the provision in the Act of Reconciliation that renders the deployment of the peace force subject to negotiation.

The OAS also heard the 25-page secret report of the ad hoc committee which engineered the peace settlement in the Dominican Republic. The report contains a chronology of activities of the committee and about five recommendations that were not disclosed.

Messina, 44, who has not yet presented his credentials as new ambassador to the White House, received a hearty welcome and more than two hours of oratory to go with it.

He has lived in Washington for the past 4½ years, most recently serving as a \$30,000-a-year expert on technical assistance with the Inter-American Development Bank.

He described himself last night as a political independent who leans toward the democratic left. His background includes a law degree from the University of Santo Domingo and he is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Economics of Santo Domingo and he is a governor of the Central Bank and Minister of Economy. He left the Dominican Republic in 1960.

He replaces Ambassador Jose Antonio Bonilla Atilas. Messina and his wife, Maria, have five daughters. They live at 6101 Durbin Road, Bethesda.